Statement

District-wise number of branches of commercial banks and Regional Rural in Orissa as on 30-6-1988.

Name of District	No. of branches
Balasore	149
Bolangir	90
Cuttack	321
Dhenkanal	116
Ganjam	193
Kalahandi	99
Keonjhar	73
Koraput	143
Mayurbhanj	111
Phulbani	52
Puri	231
Sambalpur	139
Sundergarh	95
TOTAL :	1812

India's Trade Promotion Offices Abroad

1080. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a trade promotion office in Paris;

(b) whether it is a part of Government's programme to promote trade between India and France; and

(c) what are the other places outside India where trade promotion offices are set up by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) During a meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi on 30th and 31st January, 1989, the possibilities of expansion of bilateral trade were discussed. A suggestion was made by the French side for setting up of an office for promotion of Indian exports to France.

(c) Apart from the Commercial Sections located in our Missions abroad, organisations under the Ministry of Commerce have set up commercial and trade promotion offices at various places like Brussels, New York, Tokyo, London, Sydney, Singapore, Kuwait, Dubai, Frankfurt, etc.

Modification of Furnace Oil subsidy Scheme

1081. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to modify Furnace Oil Subsidy Scheme to bring down the eligibility criteria to 15 per cent F.O.B. Export value;

(b) whether the scheme has proved beneficial; if so, would it be continued in the Eighth Plan period; if not, the reasons for the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that high cost of Furnace Oil affects the competitiveness of small scale industries in the country; if so, what steps Government propose to take to build up exports in this sector; and

(d) whether the glass and ceramic industry has represented in this regard and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) The furnace oil subsidy scheme was introduced in August, 1984 by the Ministry of Petroleum. Under the scheme it was envisaged to make available furnace oil at concessional

rates for export production. The scheme was introduced initially for glass and ceramics sector. The scheme had stipulated that units whose cost of furnace oil formed at least 25 per cent of the total cost of production would be eligible to avail of the benefits of this scheme. This scheme was in force till 30th September, 1988.

Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council representing the industry have submitted that the industry could not taken advantage of the scheme announced earlier as the eligibility criterion of the cost of furnace oil forming 25 per cent of the total cost of production was on the higher side and on this plea they represented that this criterion should be revised to 15 per cent so that more manufacturers/exporters of glass and ceramic products could take advantage of the scheme. The Council has been asked to submit additional information for full examination of the proposal.

Modification of Export Policy

1082. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will modify the present export policy to include value added items hitherto not exported from the country;

(b) whether any survey has been undertaken to identify select items of wood to earn additional foreign exchange;

(c) whether Government will consider export of small and medium size machine-finished sandal wood products and sawn timber; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government will initiate measures for export of such products through State Handicrafts Development Corporations or State Export Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) At present there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government to modify export policy to include other value-added items for export.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to the current Import-Export Policy, export of handicrafts made of sandal wood is allowed on the basis of a certificate from the All India Handicrafts Board that the minimum value addition is of 300 per cent of the average base price of sandal wood per MT etc. However, sandal wood in form of dust, chips (subject to certain conditions) Flakes and powder are allowed for export under OGL-3. There is no proposal under Government's consideration to allow export of small and medium size machine-finished sandal wood products and sawn timber.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Granite

1083. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of granite are given the facility of blanket FE permit and if not, what are the reasons when similar products are admissible for the scheme;

(b) what is the total export of granite in the form of cut dimensional blocks, slabs and tiles and whether granite is classified as select export product; and

(c) what are the reasons for which granite is equated with bulk metallic ore for the purpose of exoprt and whether other support measures have been identified to boost export of this value added item?